



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



M.J. "Mike" Foster  
Governor

L. Hall Bohlinger  
Secretary

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### ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

#### **DEQ EXTENDS EMERGENCY RULE ON WASTE TIRES**

(Baton Rouge) – To strengthen the regulations that will ensure proper disposal of waste tires processed in Louisiana, L. Hall Bohlinger, Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, today announced the extension of an emergency rule that became effective on January 15, 2003 and would otherwise expire. The emergency rule will remain in effect for 120 days beginning May 15, 2003 or until DEQ promulgates a final rule, whichever comes first. Emergency rules are issued based upon a finding that there exists imminent peril to public health, safety, or welfare. The Department is already in the process of promulgating the regular rule.

Waste tire piles are known to attract mosquitoes, rodents and other pests that can be dangerous to human health. They also pose a significant fire threat. "DEQ's Waste Tire Program has been instrumental in eliminating health hazards that abandoned tires pose to the public," said Secretary Bohlinger. "This is an important public service and we are taking every step necessary to make the program as effective as it needs to be, to protect the environment and human health."

(more)

The DEQ Waste Tire Program began with Act 185 of the 1989 Louisiana Legislature. Act 185 banned whole tires from being placed in landfills and established a \$2.00 waste tire disposal fee with each new tire purchase. The regulations took effect on January 20, 1992. To remove illegal waste tire dumping sites throughout the state, DEQ first worked with local parishes through cooperative agreements. In 1998, DEQ streamlined the system and took over the process. One of the biggest sites remediated by DEQ was in a large overgrown pasture containing over 400,000 tires in 116 piles reaching 10 feet in height. By the year 2000, 96% of all reported illegal waste tire sites had been eliminated.

DEQ collected well over seven million tires through the Waste Tire Program. Secretary Bohlinger pointed out that “today, DEQ receives an occasional report of an illegal waste tire site. The proliferation of major [waste tire] dumps is a thing of the past. In order to continue this trend, it is very important to keep the waste tire program operational.”

In drafting its rule, DEQ also will tighten areas dealing with the verification by tire processors of the number of waste tire in shipments from transporters and more accurate record keeping.